

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

00:00:00

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN GLENN ROUSH**, on February 11, 2005 at  
3:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Glenn Roush, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)  
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Sen. Greg Lind (D)  
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)  
Sen. Bill Tash (R)  
Sen. Ken Toole (D)  
Sen. Mike Wheat (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Peg Holwick, Committee Secretary  
Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 336, 2/7/2005  
Executive Action: None.

**HEARING ON SB 336**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN. LANE LARSON (D)**, SD 22, opened the hearing on **SB 336**, Coal bed methane reclamation.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:05:57           **James Kuippers, Northern Plains Resource Council**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a01)

00:15:45           **Ray Muggli, Northern Plains Resource Council**

00:24:19           **Clint McRae, Supervisor, Conservation District**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a02)

00:26:34           **REP. NORMA BIXBY, HD 41, LAME DEER**

00:27:25           **REP. VERONICA SMALL-EASTMAN, HD 42, LODGE GRASS**

00:29:27           **Clint McRae, Rosebud County**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a03)

00:32:59           **Denise Wood, Diamond Cross Ranch**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a04)

00:37:08           **Deborah Hanson, on behalf of self**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a05)

00:41:46           **David Davenport, Rosebud Conservation District**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a06)

00:44:31           **Dixie Stark, on behalf of self**

00:46:28           **Gene Fenderson, Laborers Union**

00:47:23           **Mary Fitzpatrick, Northern Plains Resource Council**

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a07)

00:49:36           **Brenda Lindliefital, Tongue River Water Users Association**

00:52:21           **Pat Michelle, on behalf of self**

00:53:55           **Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center**

00:54:44           **Don Judge, Montana Sierra Club**

00:56:28           **Theresa Keaveny, Montana Conservation Voters**

00:57:40 John Doyle, Bighorn County Commissioner  
 00:58:47 Derek Goldman, Montana Fisheries Society and  
 Montana Audubon Society  
 01:00:02 John Pretty On Top, Bighorn County Commissioner

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:03:42 Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration & Production  
 Company

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a08)

01:25:54 Carl Dewey, Rancher, on behalf of self

**EXHIBIT** (nas34a09)

01:38:23 Chad Fenner, Bighorn County Commissioner  
 01:41:39 Jon Metropoulos, Attorney  
 01:48:14 Tom Ebsry, on behalf of Marathon Oil and Phillips  
 Petroleum  
 01:51:19 Executive Director, Executive Director, Montana  
 Petroleum Association  
 01:54:54 Charles Brooks, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce  
 01:56:25 Don Alan, Western Environmental Trade Association  
 01:58:12 William Daffield, Oil and Gas

**Informational Testimony:**

02:00:14 Richard Oppen, Montana Department of Environmental  
 Quality (MDEQ)  
 02:01:00 Don Richmond, Board of Oil and Gas

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:01:58 SEN. HARRINGTON for Gail Abercrombie  
 02:06:55 SEN. TOOLE for Bruce Williams  
 02:21:16 SEN. TOOLE for Doug McRae  
 02:23:29 SEN. TOOLE for James Kuippers  
 02:25:04 SEN. TASH for Carl Duffy  
 02:27:11 SEN. TASH for Clint McCrae  
 02:30:20 SEN. TASH for David Davenport  
 02:33:11 SEN. WHEAT for Chad Fenner  
 02:35:41 SEN. WHEAT for SEN. LARSON  
 02:37:11 SEN. WHEAT for Bruce Williams  
 02:44:45 SEN. CURTISS for Chad Fenner  
 02:47:05 SEN. CUTISS for Don Richmond  
 02:52:25 SEN. WHEAT for SEN. LARSON; referred to James  
 Kuippers, NPRC

02:55:31        **SEN. GEPHARDT** for **Don Richmond**  
02:57:23        **SEN GEPHARDT** for **Clint McRae**  
03:01:52        **SEN GEPHARDT** for **SEN. LARSON**; redirected to **David**  
                 **Davenport**  
03:09:17        **SEN. PERRY** for **Steve Welch**  
03:11:20        **SEN. PERRY** for **Tom Richmond**  
03:14:31        **CHAIRMAN ROUSH** for **Tom Richmond**  
03:24:09        **CHAIRMAN ROUSH** for **Doug McCrae**  
  
03:31:35        **CHAIRMAN ROUSH** commented on need for timely  
                 executive action and, possibility of Northern  
                 Plains Resource Council creating an interim study.

03:34:00

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:34:52

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 6: P.M.

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SEN. GLENN ROUSH, Chairman

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PEG HOLWICK, Secretary

GR/ph

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([nas34aad0.PDF](#))**